

Franklin Academy

Reisterstown, Maryland

Public Access

The FRANKLIN ACADEMY is the only early Reisterstown structure associated with education. It was a substantial and moderately sophisticated structure when first built in the early nineteenth century and it received an extensive addition later in the nineteenth century, and one of distinguished contemporary design in the twentieth century. Now in an adaptive reuse, it is still serving the community as a library, a function not incompatible with its original.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Franklin Academy

1826

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cockeys Mill Road

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES- RESTRICTED☐ YES- UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Baltimore County Board of Education Telephone #: 494-4074

STREET & NUMBER

6901 N. Charles Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 88

Folio #: 436

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE
Maryland, 21204**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The FRANKLIN ACADEMY is a brick structure in three sections. The original, facing east, was constructed early in the nineteenth century, probably ca. 1820. The first addition, facing the road to the north, was constructed ca. 1874. These two early sections are two storeys in height having a uniform low-pitched roof with wide bracketed eave and rake overhangs. In 1969 one storey brick additions extended south and east, forming a courtyard with the earlier structure.

The original structure probably dates from the founding of the Academy, 1820 or shortly thereafter. The principal facade, facing east, is of Flemish bond and it was probably five symmetrical bays in length although only 3 1/2 bays are now exposed; the ca. 1874 addition covers the north end. Now opening into the courtyard, the principal entrance was in the center bay and it is arched. The opening above it is also arched and it was probably a window originally, later altered as a door, and now closed with wood. Extremely long rubbed voussoir bricks are in the upper arch and the typical windows have gauged brick jack arches above them 1 1/2 bricks in length. The south and west facades are of common bond, every sixth course headers. All sash are 6/6 and virtually all exterior woodwork is replacement material. The walls were raised slightly to conform to the height of the ca. 1874 addition and a new roof was constructed uniformly over the enlarged structure

In the principal facade of the ca. 1874 addition, facing north, the easterly three bays are beneath the eave of the low-pitched slated roof. The westerly two bays project forward slightly and they are beneath a gabled roof, a continuation of the replaced roof above the original section. An arched entrance is in the central of these five bays and a tall, very narrow window is immediately to its west. Other windows are 6/6, those of the second storey being taller than those of the first, and all have jack arches above them, one brick in height. Walls are of common bond, every seventh course headers.

The 1969 additions were designed by Lawrence Menefee, Jr., Architect, Baltimore; one storey in height, of compatible brick, they have hipped batten-seamterne roofs and their quiet contemporary design respects the original structure.

Within, the entire interior is modern and no old elements are visible.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1820 ; later additions 1874; 1969 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The FRANKLIN ACADEMY is the only early Reisterstown structure associated with education. It was a substantial and moderately sophisticated structure when first built in the early nineteenth century,* and one of distinguished contemporary design in the twentieth century. Now in an adaptive reuse, it is still serving the community as a library, a function not incompatible with its original. *It received an extensive addition later in the 19th century,

Located on land that was in the Spring Garden portion of John Reister's property. After the community outgrew an original log school established in 1793 and located to the south of the Reister Tavern, a search was on to relocate. By two deeds dated 13 November 1824 and 24 March 1825 (WG No. 174:93-4 and No. 175:671-2) John Sumwalt, husband of John Reister's granddaughter Margaret Smith "for the encouragement of learning in Reisters Town and to promote the prosperity of literature and for the consideration of one dollar" deeded to the newly appointed Board of Trustees of the Franklin Academy a larger and more suitable site on which a new building for the Academy was built. This site is the present on on Cockeys Mill Road. (1) Marks, p. 11 and 179)

The Board of Trustees for the Academy was created by an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland January 10, 1820 and were given the power to appoint teacher, and to hold, sell, buy or lease any property for use of the said Academy. With the new site ready, a building committee was appointed and funds for a new structure were raised by public subscription which amounted to more than \$1200. Subscriptions ranged from \$1.00 to \$50.00. Among the largest subscribers were Daniel Forney, tavern-keeper; Charles Larsh, Dr. Hall, Mr. Ducker, Samuel Harryman, Samuel and Harry Reister. The building was completed in 1826 and was a fine brick structure (2)(Franklin's Century of Progress compiled L.B.Goodwin unpagd.)

In 1848 The General Assembly of Maryland passed an act establishing public schools in Baltimore County. The first step towards making Franklin Academy a part of this newly organized school system was taken on January 1849 when the Board rented the Academy and its premises to the County for a small annual sum. Because of unsettled conditions brought about by the Civil War, the school did not come completely under public control until 1874.

In 1874, this step was completed with a Lease Agreement between the trustees of Franklin Academy (duly Incorporated by Act of General Assembly

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Material for this description was taken from Franklin's Century of Progress compiled by Mrs. Louise Bland Goodwin, published 1978, unpagged.

Marks, Lillian B., Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975), ~~MS. 1000~~.

Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY James T. Wollon A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE

Cornelia M Ives, Project Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Historic Reisterstown, Inc

DATE

August, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

430 Main Street

TELEPHONE

833-3078 (Ms Ives)

CITY OR TOWN

Reisterstown, Md 21136

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438


8 Significance continued

1800 Chapter 43) and the Board of County School Commissioners of Baltimore County. The property and premises to be used as Publick High School and the lease to run for 25 years for 1st renewable every 25 years forever. The original Lease Agreement stipulated that the building was "to be used for a Publick High School only" a stipulation which was upheld during the next century. (3) (88/436) Additions were made to the building at this time in order to accommodate 200 pupils.

Growth accompanied the history of the Academy, now the Reisterstown High School. Because it was the only high school in the whole county it served students from all over the county and even Carroll County. In 1896 the name was changed to Franklin High School. In 1905 a new building was erected across the Cockeys Mill Road and the High School moved, leaving the elementary grades at the older building. In the fall of 1929, however, the last students moved out of the building as more buildings were built to accommodate the growing population. The old Academy Building was used as a garage for the school buses, and in 1929 it became the home of the Agriculture Department of the high school.

The building continued to be used by the school for various overflow classes and classrooms were maintained in the building for this purpose right up to 1961 when the entire building was leased to the Board of Library Trustees for a branch of the County Public Library. With an addition in 1969, the Reisterstown Library continues today to encourage learning in Reisters Town and promote the prosperity of literature...according to the wishes of its original benefactor!

03005430

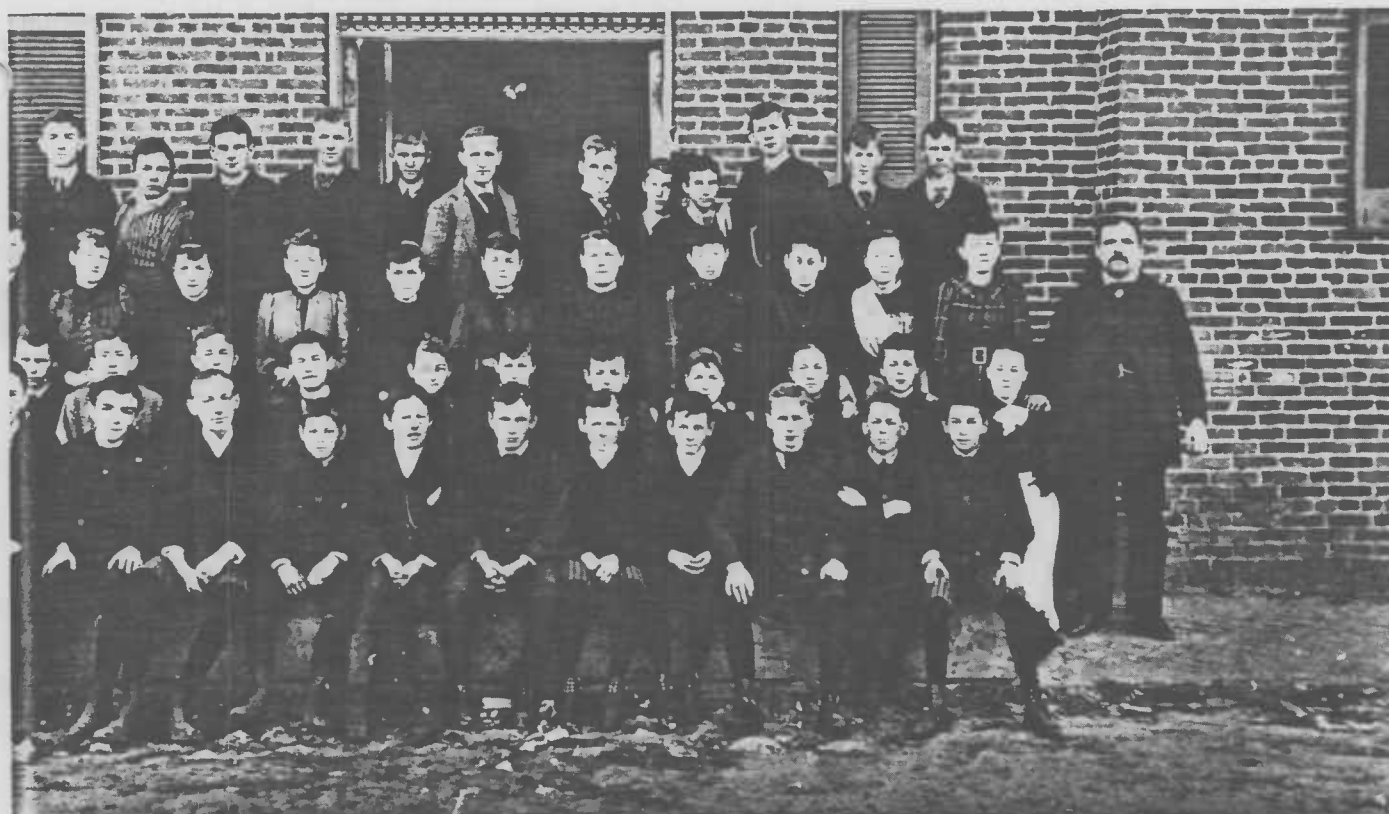
1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore TOWN _____ VICINITY Dist. IV STREET NO. Cockeys Mill Road ORIGINAL OWNER _____ ORIGINAL USE _____ PRESENT OWNER _____ PRESENT USE _____ WALL CONSTRUCTION _____ NO. OF STORIES _____		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-54	
		2. NAME Franklin Academy DATE OR PERIOD 1820 STYLE _____ ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE _____	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <p style="text-align: center;">Became the first High School in Baltimore County in 1874.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Now, the Reisterstown Public Library.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baltimore County Historical Society Marker - Sept. 8, 1963.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  <p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> </div> </div>			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER (First HABS Report) E. Frances Offutt HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DATE OF RECORD July 29, 1965	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Brooks, Neal A., and Richard Parsons

1988 Baltimore County Panorama. Towson, Maryland: Baltimore County Public Library.

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Principal Zachariah C. Ebaugh, principal of Franklin High School, Reisterstown, is pictured with his boys of the years 1892-1893. After decades of careless use, the old brick building, originally the 1820 Franklin Academy, was recycled in the 1960s into the Reisterstown Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library.

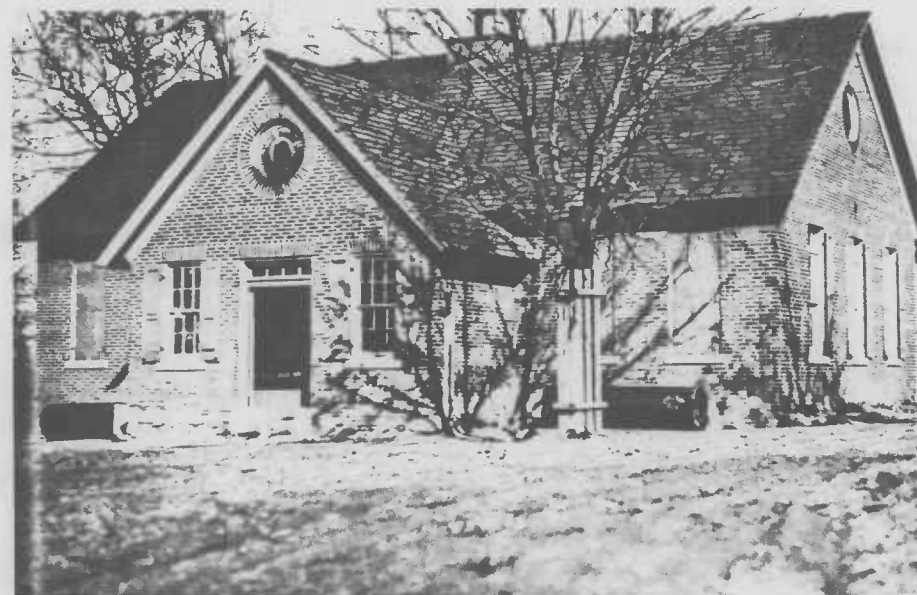
Ebaugh served as county superintendent of schools from 1898 to 1900, but returned to Franklin because of his desire to teach and be around children. He died in 1906.

From 1885 until the early 1900s, Franklin

was the only high school in the county. Under state law at that time, a school had to offer three grades above the sixth to be deemed a high school. Until 1939 only seven grades of school were available for black children in Baltimore County. The only black high school in either Baltimore City or Baltimore County was Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore City. This one school was to serve the black children located throughout an area of no less than 655 square miles.

In 1939 the Benjamin Banneker, George

Washington Carver, and George S. Bragg high schools were opened for blacks in Catonsville, Towson, and Sparrows Point, respectively. Bragg had been converted from an elementary school. Carver became the Towsontown Junior High School after the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas Supreme Court decision. Still later, Carver was converted to the Central Vocational-Technical Center in Towson. The three new black high schools offered four additional grades and graduated their first (eleventh-grade) classes in 1943.



The 1883 Eklo School in Middletown, which was closed as a result of consolidation, was sold in 1933 and is now a residence. At the time of the photo, about 1917, principal John H. Hale was conducting Rural Life Education classes for farmers, and showing exhibits in the tent at the back.



BA 54

Franklin Academy

Cockeys Mill Rd - Reist. Md

Carol Pollack

4.77

North